



**For immediate release
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FISHING SEASON AT WACHUSETT AND QUABBIN RESERVOIRS OPENS THIS MONTH

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) fishing season at the Wachusett Reservoir opened on April 5, for shore fishing only. Fishing season at the Quabbin Reservoir will open on Saturday, April 19, conditions permitting.

At Wachusett, fishing hours are dawn to dusk through Nov. 30, 2008. A state fishing license, which is \$27.50 for adults, is required. Parking is free.

At Quabbin, all three boat launch sites – Area I (Gate 8) off Route 202 in Belchertown, Area II (Gate 31) off Route 31 in New Salem, and Area III (Gate 43) off Route 32A in Hardwick – will be in full operation beginning April 19 if the reservoir is free of ice. In the event that ice conditions prevent the opening of the launch sites, fishing will be permitted only from shore until the ice melts.

“The Quabbin is a beautiful place to fish,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “I’ve promised my brother-in-law a fishing trip out there, and I can’t wait to go.”

The gates will operate seven days a week through the season, which closes on Oct. 18. Shore fishing will open at 5 a.m. on April 19 regardless of ice conditions on the reservoir.

If there is no ice, the launch areas will open at 5 a.m. on April 19, then at 6 a.m. thereafter. Areas close at 8 p.m. through May 11, then at 8:30 p.m. May 12- Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11- Sept. 14, and at 6:30 p.m. from Sept. 14- Oct. 18.

One-day fishing licenses for the Quabbin are \$5 and are available at all launch areas. Season licenses for Massachusetts residents are \$27.50 through the state Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, local sporting goods stores, and town halls. To purchase a license online, visit www.mass.gov/massoutdoors.

Fees at the Quabbin boat launch areas are \$4 per vehicle to park and \$2 per person to launch private boats. Small motor boats can be rented at each area for \$30 a day.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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The Quabbin Reservoir supports 27 species of fish, 17 of which are sought by anglers. In spring, the most prolific fish include lake trout, landlocked salmon, smallmouth bass, and white perch.

Fishing at most other DCR freshwater lakes and ponds is permitted year-round, conditions permitting. Massachusetts state fishing licenses are required.

For further information, including size limits on private boats and motors at the Quabbin Reservoir and bait regulations, visit the DCR website www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/watershed/quabfish.htm or call the Quabbin Visitor Center at 413-323-7221. For information on fishing, visit www.mass.gov/dfwele.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.